

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously presented) A method for providing corrosion protection in an assembly of two or more metal parts, comprising the steps of:

- (a) at a point in an assembly process for the assembly, placing at a juncture of any two of the two or more metal parts of the assembly, a corrosion-protection element comprising heat-expandable material, the corrosion-protection element shaped to conform to the juncture; and
- (b) expanding the corrosion-protection element at another point in the assembly process by application of heat.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the assembly is a vehicle body.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the corrosion-protection element further comprises a substantially rigid element having an engagement interface for holding the heat-expandable material in place between step (a) and step (b).

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the juncture comprises a MacPherson strut dome in a vehicle body assembly.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the juncture comprises a vehicle roof and a roof bow in a vehicle body assembly.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 51 wherein the juncture comprises aligned openings in two metal parts joined by a peg or other rigid connective element.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein application of heat in step (b) occurs in the assembly process in a general procedure for treating the entire assembly, the procedure comprising a temperature elevated above ambient for a time sufficient to expand the heat-expandable material.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the procedure is one of dip-priming, lacquering, or galvanizing.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the application of heat in step (b) occurs in the assembly process as a manual procedure adapted specifically to expand the heat-expandable material.

59. (Currently amended) A corrosion-protection element comprising a portion of heat-expandable material shaped to conform, prior to expansion, ~~not expanded~~ to a general shape of a juncture between two or more metal parts of an assembly, to fill the juncture when later expanded by heat.

60. (Previously presented) The element of claim 59 wherein the assembly is a vehicle body.

61. (Previously presented) The element of claim 59 wherein the corrosion-protection element further comprises a substantially rigid element having an engagement interface for holding the heat-expandable material in place in the juncture between the metal parts.

62. (Previously presented) The element of claim 60 wherein the juncture comprises a MacPherson strut dome in a vehicle body assembly, and the element is shaped to conform to the juncture of parts in the strut dome.

63. (Previously presented) The element of claim 60 wherein the juncture comprises a vehicle roof and a roof bow in a vehicle body assembly.

64. (Previously presented) The element of claim 60 wherein the juncture comprises aligned openings in two metal parts joined by a peg or other rigid connective element.

65. (Previously presented) The element of claim 59 wherein application of heat to expand the corrosion-protection element occurs in an assembly process in a general procedure for treating the entire assembly, the procedure comprising a temperature elevated above ambient for a time sufficient to expand the heat-expandable material.

66. (Previously presented) The element of claim 65 wherein the procedure is one of dip-priming, lacquering, or galvanizing.

67. (Previously presented) The element of claim 59 wherein the application of heat occurs in an assembly process as a manual procedure adapted specifically to expand the heat-expandable material.

68. (Previously presented) A method for providing corrosion protection in an assembly of two or more metal parts, comprising the steps of:

(a) at a point in an assembly process for the assembly, placing at a juncture of any two of the two or more metal parts of the assembly, a corrosion-protection element comprising heat-expandable material, the corrosion-protection element shaped to conform to the juncture; and

(b) expanding the corrosion-protection element at another point in the assembly process by application of heat.